

# An Urgent Message on Transportation

*from your*  
**State Representatives**

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**Rep. Bush**



**Rep. Campbell**

July 2001

Dear Neighbors,

There is no debating that our region needs transportation congestion relief. However, the challenge is to determine how to pay for those improvements.

Just a few days ago, Gov. Gary Locke signed a current-law transportation budget. A current-law budget comprises programs and projects funded by the existing gas tax and other transportation-related revenue. Projects in the 2nd District, such as Meridian Road, Mountain Highway, 507 and the Orting Highway are included.

But we must still deal with the backlog of maintenance and expansion needed to increase the safety and capacity of our roads. Gov. Locke has said he will use his executive authority to call a special session beginning July 16 solely for the purpose of discussing a transportation-funding package.

House Republicans have insisted on transportation efficiency measures, such as competitive bidding, reform of prevailing wage laws, and streamlining the permitting process to make transportation projects faster and less expensive.

The streamlining measure has been signed into law. Cutting the time and expense of the permitting process will go a long way to maximize the value of every taxpayer dollar spent on transportation, and reduce the congestion, which threatens our state's families and economy. So far, this is the only efficiency measure the governor and our Democrat counterparts have accepted.

During the week of July 16, we may be asked to vote on a transportation package. We'd like to get some comments and suggestions from you. Please complete and respond to the questions included in this newsletter. We're looking forward to hearing and reading your thoughts.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Roger Bush".

Rep. Roger Bush

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Tom Campbell".

Rep. Tom Campbell

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# CALL, E-MAIL or WRITE US with your views on TRANSPORTATION!

## We need to hear from you!!!

Gov. Gary Locke's plan is to raise \$9.36 billion over the next decade through three tax and fee increases. He wants to raise the gas tax by seven cents per gallon (four cents in January and three cents two years after that). He also wants to add a 2 percent surcharge on the sales tax of new or used motor vehicles. His proposal also includes a 50 percent increase in the gross weight fee paid by tractor-trailer drivers. And he has decided he does NOT want to put these proposals before voters.

Because \$9.36 billion is far less than what is needed statewide over the next 10 years, another component of the plan is regionalization – meaning that additional taxes (the governor estimates \$7.84 billion) would be imposed locally and spent on local projects. This offers us a chance to prioritize local projects and keep our money closer to home. So we must pay attention to project selection. Will those of us who live in outlying areas be forced by Tacoma voters to pay more for their projects, such as Sound Transit, that do not benefit our area?

We are committed to a workable and equitable transportation package.

As always, we continue to oppose tax increases. The following survey questions do not represent our views, but your answers to these questions will help us better gauge your opinion. Please take a moment to consider the following so...

## WE CAN FIGHT FOR YOUR PRIORITIES!

1. Are you willing to pay more at the gas pump? If yes, how much more?
2. Are you willing to pay higher taxes on vehicle purchases?
3. Are you willing to pay more at the grocery store, if increased trucking fees mean higher grocery prices?
4. Should the Legislature vote on a funding package, or should we send it to the voters?
5. Do you support the regional concept of imposing additional taxes locally to be spent on local projects?
6. Democrat leaders are insisting we reserve 30 percent of all funds for transit and 30 percent for ferries. Do you agree?
7. Do you support the House Republican plan to insist on efficiencies that would reduce the cost of transportation maintenance and improvement projects?
8. How would you prioritize transportation spending?
  - New or expanded roads
  - More buses
  - A second Narrows Bridge
  - More HOV lanes
  - More park and rides

**Please call, e-mail or write us with your answers to the above questions:**

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